

# WHITHER THOU GOEST

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**for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ**

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**Phillip A. Cooke**

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(2008, rev. 2018)

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### PERFORMANCE NOTE

The solo sections may be taken by more singers if necessary  
All organ stops and registrations are left to the discretion of the organist

For the Choir of The Queen's College

First performed by the Choir of The Queen's College with Owen Rees (conductor) and Charlie Phillips (organ) in the chapel of The Queen's College, Oxford on 30 May 2008

**Duration:** 7 minutes  
**Cover photograph:** 'Ruth and Naomi' (He Qi, 2001)  
**For more information:** [www.phillipcooke.com](http://www.phillipcooke.com)

### TEXT

Intreat me not to leave thee,  
or to return from following after thee;  
for whither thou goest, I will go;  
where thou lodgest, I will lodge:  
thy people shall be my people,  
and thy God be my God:  
where thou diest, will I die,  
and there will I be buried:  
the Lord do so to me, and more also,  
if ought but death part thee and me.

**Ruth, Chapter 1 vs 16-17**

## PROGRAMME NOTE

*Whither Thou Goest* was written for the Choir of The Queen's College, Oxford University during my time there as a Junior Research Fellow in 2008. The text was chosen by the departing provost, Sir Alan Budd and is taken from the Book of Ruth. My setting aims to be dramatic with the building of tension over the long polyphonic, chromatic sections. This tension is resolved with apocalyptic bursts from the organ and strident choral sections. The work ends much as it began, with distant solo voices and soft organ dissonances.

PAC

# WHITHER THOU GOEST

for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

RUTH, CHAPTER 1, vs 16-17

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2008, rev. 2018)

Andante sostenuto e liberamente (♩ = c.88)

Sw: *pp*

Measures 1-5 of the piano introduction in 3/2 time, featuring a bass line with a melodic line and a supporting bass line.

Measures 6-9 of the piano introduction, continuing the melodic and harmonic development.

10 *ppp sempre\**  
mmm

solo *pp espress.*  
(gli altri) In - treat me not to leave thee, or to re - turn from fol-low-ing

*ppp sempre\**  
mmm

solo *pp espress.*  
(gli altri) In - treat me not to leave thee, or to re - turn from fol-low-ing

*ppp sempre\**  
mmm

*ppp sempre\**  
mmm

Measures 10-17 of the score, including vocal parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts feature a melodic line with lyrics and a supporting bass line. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

\* Breathe regularly but independently to achieve note

15

(*mmm*)

af - ter thee; for whi-ther thou goe - st, I will go; where thou lod -

(*mmm*)

af - ter thee; for whi-ther thou goe - st, I will go; where thou lod -

(*mmm*)

(*mmm*)

19

(*mmm*)

gest, I will lodge: thy peo - ple will be my

(*mmm*)

gest, I will lodge: thy peo - ple will be my

(*mmm*)

(*mmm*)

23

*pp espress.*

(solo) *ppp* peo- ple, — *tutti pp espress.* In - treat me. —

(solo) *ppp* peo- ple, — *tutti pp espress.* In - treat me. —

*pp espress.* In - treat

Sw: *pp*



28

treat me. — not to leave thee. —

— not to leave thee. — In-treat me. —

In-treat me. — not to leave thee. —

me. — In-treat me. — In-treat

33

or to re - turn from fol-low-ing af - ter thee; In - treat me

not to leave thee or to re - turn I

or to re - turn from fol-low-ing af - ter thee

me In - treat me for whi-ther thou goe-st,-



38

I will go; I will lodge: shall be

will go; I will lodge: Thy peo - ple

for whi-ther thou goe - st, where thou lod - gest, Thy peo - ple

where thou lod - gest, Thy peo - ple Thy

43

my peo - ple shall be my  
 shall be my peo - ple shall be  
 shall be my peo - ple my peo - ple  
 peo - ple and thy God be my God:  
 Ped: 16'  
 p



47

peo - ple my peo - ple  
 my peo - ple and thy God be my God:  
 and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God:  
 and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God  
 Sw: p



*cresc.*

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my

*cresc.*

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God

*cresc.*

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God:

*cresc.*

be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be

*cresc.*

**rit.** . . . . . **poco più mosso** (♩ = c.96)

53 *f* *sub. p* *ff*

God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *p* *ff*

be my God: and thy God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *p* *ff*

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *p* *ff*

my God: \_\_\_\_\_ and thy God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *ff marc.*

Gt: *ff marc.*

(16')

*f* *ff marc.*

*mf cresc.* *ff*

where thou die - st will I die,

*mf cresc.* *ff*

where thou die - st will I die,

*mf cresc.* *ff*

where thou die - st will I die,

*mf cresc.* *ff*

where thou die - st will I die,

*ffz* *ff*



*mf*

and there will I be

*mf*

and there will I be

*mf*

and there will I be

*mf*

and there will I be

*ff* *ffz* *ffz*

65 *ff* *f espress.*

bur-ied \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord do

bur-ied \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord do

bur-ied \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord do

bur-ied \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord do

*ff* *sffz*



rit. . . . .

68 *p* *mf*

so to me, and more al - so, the Lord do so to me, and

so to me, and more al - so, the Lord do so to me, and

so to me, and more al - so, the Lord do so to me, and

so to me, and more al - so, the Lord do so to me, and

73

solo *pp espress.*

(gli altri)

and thy God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

*ppp*

more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) *mmm*

*ppp*

more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) *mmm*

*ppp*

more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) *mmm*

8

solo *pp espress.*

(gli altri)

and thy

*ppp*

more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) *mmm*



77 (tutti)

(*mmm*)

(*mmm*)

(*mmm*)

God be my God: \_\_\_\_\_

(*mmm*)

Sw: *pp sempre*

\* *pp*

if ought but death \_\_\_\_\_

\* *pp*

if ought but death \_\_\_\_\_

\* Gradually singers drop out leaving just solo at \*

81 (alto)

part thee and me, if ought but death part thee and

(tenor)

part thee and me, if ought but death part thee and

85

*ppp*

me, part thee and me, part thee and me,

*ppp*

me, part thee and me, part thee and me,

89

\* (solo)

and me, and me, me.

\* (solo)

and me, and me, me.

*rit.*

93 *ppp*

A - - men.

tutti *ppp*

A - - men.

tutti *ppp*

A - - men.

*ppp*

A - - men.

Ped: 16', 32'

*ppp*